

March 20, 2000

**PHYSICIANS, MID-LEVEL PRACTITIONERS, EPSDT
PROVIDERS, PODIATRISTS, DENTISTS,
OPTOMETRISTS, PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS,
AUDIOLOGISTS, PSYCHIATRISTS
MONTANA MEDICAID NOTICE**

PROVIDER BULLETIN – ADDENDUM TO PROVIDER MANUAL

GLOBAL SURGERY PERIODS

EVALUATION & MANAGEMENT (E&M) BILLING WITHIN GLOBAL SURGERY PERIODS:

Effective May 1, 2000, certain Evaluation and Management (E&M) services billed within the global surgery period assigned to a surgical code must be billed with the proper code and modifier to be reimbursed by the Medicaid Program. E&M codes billed to Medicaid with a date of service within the global period - one, ten or ninety days - of a surgery code without a proper modifier will be denied.

The qualifying E&M CPT-4 codes and ranges are:

99211 through 99275	99301 through 99316	99331 through 99333
99347 through 99350	99375 99378 92012 92014	

GLOBAL SURGERY PERIODS:

Global surgery periods are postoperative time spans assigned to surgery codes. During these time spans, surgically related follow-up services may **not** be billed by the surgeon who performed the surgery **nor another member of the same practice performing follow-up care for the surgeon.** Group practices should bill Medicaid for the services of their members in the same specialty and group practice as if a single practitioner provided all related follow-up services furnished to the patient.

For major surgeries, this span is ninety (90) days and includes the day prior to the surgery and the following services: post-operative surgery related care and pain management and surgically-related supplies and miscellaneous services.

For minor surgeries and endoscopies, the spans are either one (1) day or ten (10) days and include any surgically-related follow-up care and supplies on the day of surgery or within the ten day span.

Medicaid generally uses the same global periods as Medicare. In cases of conflict, however, the Medicaid global period applies. For a current list of CPT-4 codes with global surgery periods, send a **written** request to: Consultec, Provider Relations Unit, P.O. Box 8000, Helena, MT 59604. The list is available either in hard copy or disc format. Please specify the format.

If the current edition of the CPT-4 manual lists a procedure as including the surgical procedure only (i.e., a “starred” procedure) but Medicaid lists the code with a global period, the Medicaid global period applies. Almost all Medicaid fees are based on Medicare relative value units (RVUs) and the Medicare relative value units were set using global periods for starred procedures. Montana Medicaid has accepted these RVUs as the basis for its RBRVS fee schedule.

E&M CODES AND MODIFIERS:

When billing an E&M code for a service with a date of service within the global surgery period for a distinct service **not** related to the surgery, you **must** use the correct modifier with the E&M code to receive Medicaid reimbursement. Please select the appropriate modifier from the following list:

Modifier:	Description:
24:	An unrelated E&M service by the same physician during a postoperative period
25:	A significant, separately identifiable E&M service by the same physician on the same day of the procedure or other service
57:	Decision for surgery

MEDICAL SURGICAL CODES AND MODIFIERS:

When billing a medical/surgical code for a service with a date of service within a global surgery for a distinct service not related to the surgery, you **must** use the correct modifier with the code to receive appropriate Medicaid reimbursement. Please select the appropriate modifier from the following list:

Modifier:	Description:
54:	For surgery care only
55:	For postoperative management only
58:	Staged or related procedure or service by the same physician during the postoperative period

- 59: For a service distinct or independent from other services performed on the same day and not normally performed together
- 78: Return to the operating room for a related procedure during the postoperative period.
- 79: Unrelated procedure or service by the same physician during the postoperative period.

QUESTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION:

If you have any questions, please call the Consultec Provider Relations Unit at:

Helena & Out-of-State: 406-442-1837
In State Toll Free: 1-800-624-3958

Or, at Department of Public Health and Human Services, Medicaid Services Bureau, please call Randy Bowsher at 406-444-3995 or Fran O'Hara at 406-444-3337.